

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00648 201653Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01 /068 W

----- 019185

P R 201610Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7544

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USDAO CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB PINS TD

SUBJECT: LABOR/POLITICAL CRISIS - SITUATION REPORT 1000 -

MARCH 20, 1975

REF: POS 644 MARCH 20 AND PREVIOUS

1. WITH NO DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR TODAY AND WITH  
THE RETURN OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,  
THE TENSION PREVIOUSLY EVIDENT IN THE COUNTRY HAS EASED  
SOMEWHAT. CONTINUING SHORTAGES OF GASOLINE AT SERVICE  
STATIONS HAVE Affected THE OPERATION OF MANY BUSINESSES  
AND FACTORIES AND ALSO TRANSPORTATION BY PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS.  
TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND THE WATER SHORTAGES CAUSED BY  
THE ELECTRICAL POWER FAILURES HAVE CAUSED MANY SCHOOLS  
TO CLOSE AND HAS FORCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE  
COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21.

2. FEDERATION CHEMICALS CLOSED DOWN MOST OF ITS OPERATION  
MARCH 19 BECAUSE OF DISRUPTIONS IN THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY  
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AND A SYMPATHY STRIKE BY THE OWTU-ORGANIZED WORK FORCE.

THE NESTLE FACTORY, WHICH HAD EARLIER EXPERIENCED TROUBLE DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGES, HAS ALSO SHUT DOWN ITS PLANTS DUE TO ELECTRICITY AND WATER PROBLEMS.

3. ABOUT 500 PERSONS ATTENDED AN INCIDENT-FREE UNITED LABOUR FRONT RALLY AT WOODFORD SQUARE TO HEAR SPEECHES BY ALL TRINIDAD PRESIDENT BASDEO PANDAY AND TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION PRESIDENT JOE YOUNG. AFTER THE MEETING YOUNG WAS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE ON THE SAME "PARTICIPATING IN AN ILLEGAL MARCH" CHARGE ON WHICH THE OTHER ULF LEADERS WERE ARRESTED ON MARCH 18. RAFFIQUE SHAH, THE ONLY ULF LEADER WHO HAS SO FAR ESCAPED ARREST, IS STILL AT LARGE.

4. OPPOSITION LEADER ROY RICHARDSON HAS JOINED OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS IN CALLING ON PRIM MINISTER WILLIAMS AND THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK OUT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION. ASIDE FROM STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE POLICE, HOWEVER, NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS YET INDICATED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS.

MILLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SITREP, POLICIES, LABOR STRIKES, PUBLIC UTILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTO00648  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750098-0823  
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**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 POS 644, 75 MARCH 20  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LABOR/POLITICAL CRISIS - SITUATION REPORT 1000 - MARCH 20, 1975  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, PINS, TD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006